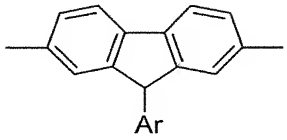
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A polymer comprising optionally substituted first repeat units of formula (I):



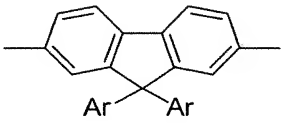
(I)

wherein Ar is phenyl or oligophenyl substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group, said electronic withdrawing group comprising at least one of a fluorine and a nitro group~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group and~~

~~(b) electron withdrawing heteroaryl~~.

2. (Currently amended) A polymer according to claim 1 comprising repeat units of formula (II):



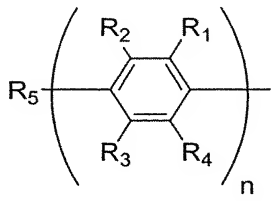
(II)

wherein each Ar is phenyl or oligophenyl substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group, said electronic withdrawing group comprising at least one of a fluorine and a nitro group~~independently selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(c) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group and~~

~~(d) electron withdrawing heteroaryl~~.

3. (Previously presented) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein each Ar is independently selected from units of formula (III):



(III)

wherein n is from 1-3 and R_1-R_5 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

- hydrogen;

- solubilizing groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, arylalkyl and heteroarylalkyl; and

- electron withdrawing groups

such that at least one of R_1-R_5 is an electron withdrawing group.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A polymer according to claim [[4]] 1 wherein the at least one electron withdrawing group is selected from the group consisting of fluorine atoms, fluoroalkyl, fluoroaryl and fluoroheteroaryl.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A polymer according to claim 1 comprising a second repeat unit.

8. (Previously presented) A polymer according to claim 7 wherein the second repeat unit is selected from the group consisting of triarylamines and heteroaromatics.

9. (Previously presented) A polymer according to claim 1 that is capable of transporting electrons.

10. (Previously presented) A polymer according to claim 9 that comprises at least one segment capable of at least one of hole transport and hole emission.

11. (Previously presented) An optical device comprising a polymer according to claim 1.

12. (Original) An optical device according to claim 11 that is an electroluminescent device.

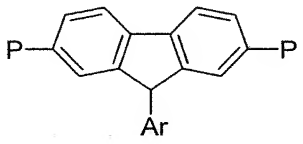
13. (Previously presented) An electroluminescent device comprising:

- a first electrode for injecting charge carriers of a first type;

- a second electrode for injecting charge carriers of a second type; and

- an emissive layer comprising a polymer according to claim 1 between the first and second electrodes.

14. (Currently amended) A monomer comprising an optionally substituted compound of formula (IV):



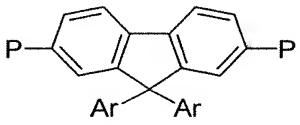
(IV)

wherein each P independently represents a polymerizable group and Ar is phenyl or oligophenyl substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group, said electronic withdrawing group comprising at least one of a fluorine and a nitro group~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group and~~

~~(b) electron withdrawing heteroaryl~~.

15. (Currently amended) A monomer according to claim 14 comprising an optionally substituted compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein each P independently represents a polymerizable group and each Ar is phenyl or oligophenyl substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group, said electronic withdrawing group comprising at least one of a fluorine and a nitro group~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(c) aromatic hydrocarbon substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group and~~

~~(d) electron withdrawing heteroaryl~~.

16. (Previously presented) A monomer according to claim 14 wherein each P is independently selected from a reactive boron derivative group and a reactive halide group.

17. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a polymer comprising a step of reacting a first monomer as defined in claim 14 with a second monomer that may be the same or different from the first monomer under conditions so as to polymerize the monomers.

18. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a polymer according to claim 17 which comprises polymerizing in a reaction mixture:

(a) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein each P is a reactive boron derivative group selected from the group consisting of boronic acid groups, boronic ester groups and borane groups, and an aromatic monomer having at least two reactive halide functional groups; or

(b) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein each P is a reactive halide functional group, and an aromatic monomer having at least two boron derivative functional groups selected from boronic acid groups, boronic ester groups and borane groups; or

(c) a monomer according to claim 16 wherein one P is a reactive halide functional group and one P is a reactive boron derivative group selected from the group consisting of boronic acid groups, boronic ester groups and borane groups,

wherein the reaction mixture comprises a catalytic amount of a catalyst suitable for catalyzing the polymerization of the aromatic monomers, and a base in an amount sufficient to convert the boron derivative functional groups into boronate anionic groups.

19. (Previously presented) A monomer according to claim 16, wherein the reactive boron derivative group is selected from the group consisting of boronic acid groups, boronic ester groups and borane groups.